Shield Alert: Stop David Russell from being forcibly electroshocked

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May 1, 2024 Update

May 1, 2024. At this point, the prime suspect for who filed the Electroshock Petition is Rob Morgan, the psychiatrist in charge of David where he is locked up at the Mayo Clinic. His e-mail address is Morgan.Robert@mayo.edu. We don't have his direct phone number, but Jim Gottstein was able to reach him by calling the Unit at (507) 255-5555 and asking for Dr. Morgan. Dr. Morgan didn't deny he had filed the Electroshock Petition and Jim asked him to withdraw it. Jim then e-mailed him, which is posted in the comments below.

.ease e-mail and/or **call Dr. Morgan and ask him to withdraw or dismiss the Electroshock Petition**. While it is good to be firm and direct about the

harm inflicted by Electroshock, please be respectful and courteous,. You can then post what you e-mailed, or describe your phone call or voicemail, in the comments. If you previously contacted Catholic Charities and have yet to post what you did in the comments, you still can. Speaking of Catholic Charities, as David's Guardian, it should vehemently oppose the Electroshock Petition. They should not be let off the hook even if they didn't file the Electroshock Petition. Mike Hanratty is the Program Director of the Catholic Charities guardianship program, his phone number is 507-454-2270, and his e-mail address is mhanratty@ccsomn.org.

April 30, 2024 Update

Catholic Charities denies it filed the Electroshock Petition and has been asked to vehemently oppose it and to identify who did. See, the exchange in the comment by Jim Gottstein below.

Shield Alert: Stop David Russell from being forcibly electroshocked

April 29, 2024. David Russel is terrified. He is currently a psychiatric prisoner at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota and there is a court hearing scheduled for this coming Monday, May 6th, where they are on track to get a court order through a sham legal process to electroshock him against his will. David is terrified because he saw another patient who was electroshocked who now can't even talk.

They really have David boxed in, taking his rights away through a guardianship/conservatorship and assigning him the same lawyer in both cases, who does nothing on his behalf according to David and as far as we can tell. Having a guardian means David is not allowed to make his own decisions, essentially putting him in the position of a small child with the guardian taking the place of his parents. The Conservator has control of David's assets, including his income and bank account. David is an employed software engineer and the guardianship/conservatorship is absurd, bud sadly we see this all the time.

ɐ is currently forced to take Zyprexa and has experienced the typical large weight gain associated with it. Zyprexa also dramatically increases

the risk of diabetes. Previously, he was forced to take Risperdal, which has caused his breasts to swell up and lactate. This is called gynecomastia and is a well-established consequence of taking Risperdal.

This is all terrible and it would be great for David to be freed, both physically from psychiatric incarceration and forced drugging, and from the guardianship, but right now he desperately wants to avoid being electroshocked. We are still trying to find contact information for some of the people we would like to influence, but we do know Catholic Charities has been appointed guardian over David. The person there who is making decisions about David's life is **Brittany Dannehy whose phone number is 507-454-2270 ext. 241 and e-mail address is bdannehy@ccsomn.org. Mike Hanratty, is the Program Director of Catholic Charities' euphemistically named Adult Advocacy Program and his phone number is 507-454-2270 and e-mail address is mhanratty@ccsomn.org.**

David says he has not been given the electroshock petition, even though it is almost certainly legally required that he be given it. We can't know for sure, but the Minnesota statute about the Guardian's Power (see § (c)(4)(ii)) says it is the Guardian who is to file a petition for electroshock, so it seems good to **call and e-mail Ms. Dannehy and Mr. Hanratty demanding that they withdraw the petition for electroshocking David against his will.** Information on Electroshock is available here that might be useful in crafting e-mails or for phone calls. What they are planning on doing to David is truly barbarous and the United Nations has determined it can constitute torture (see ¶ 14) so it is right to be angry, but still please be courteous and respectful. If Catholic Charities did not file the Forced Electroshock Petition they can deny it and if so, should be asked who did. :Please let us know.

You can leave comments below about steps you have taken and things you have learned and check back for updates.

April 30, 2024 9 Comments

9 Comments

Jim Gottstein

May 1, 2024 at 9:08 pm

From: Jim Gottstein [mailto:jim.gottstein@psychrights.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 2:51 PM
To: Morgan.Robert@mayo.edu
Subject: David Russell

Dear Dr. Morgan

This is to memorialize and follow-up on our telephone conversation earlier today about your patient David Russell. I have been informed by Mr. Russell that he signed an Authorization for Release of Information today to provide me with information, presumably to answer my questions and provide documentation. I understand documents go through the records department, but since the hearing on the Electroshock Petition is Monday morning time is of the essence. I am therefore requesting (demanding) you provide me with the Electroshock Petition. This can include directing Records to immediately get it to me. I understand you might not want to e-mail it for privacy reasons and can (hopefully) fax it.

While, I have not yet been provided a copy to review, I would be extremely surprised if it contains accurate information about the damage caused by Electroshock or its supposed benefit. There is a tremendous amount of evidence about this on the Electroshock Page at the Law Project for Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights) and you might want to particularly refer to PsychRights and Committee for Truth in Psychiatry submission to FDA opposing reclassification of electroshock machines, dated March 25, 2016.

Similarly, if the hearing goes forward, I have no doubt untruthful testimony in support of the Electroshock Petition will be presented.

Therefore, this is also to restate and reiterate my request that you withdraw or dismiss the Electroshock Petition.

Sincerely,

James B. (Jim) Gottstein, Esq.
President/CEO

Law Project for Psychiatric Rights
406 G Street, Suite 206
Anchorage, Alaska 99501 USA
(907) 274-7686

https://psychrights.org

The Law Project for Psychiatric Rights is a public interest law firm whose mission is to mount a strategic litigation campaign against forced psychiatric drugging and electroshock. We are further dedicated to exposing the truth about these drugs and the courts being misled into ordering people to be drugged and subjected to other brain and body damaging interventions against their will. Due to the massive psychiatric drugging of children and youth, PsychRights has made attacking this problem a priority. Children are virtually always forced to take these drugs because it is the adults in their lives who are making the decision. This is a national tragedy of immense proportions. PsychRights is seeking sufficient funding to increase its impact. See, Getting to the Next Level.

Reply

Andrea Barnes

May 1, 2024 at 6:41 pm

From: Andrea Barnes
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 9:36 AM
To: Brittany Dannehy
Subject: David Russell

Dear Ms Dannehy,

I am writing in regards to David Russell who is being forcibly held in the psychiatric unit at Mayo Clinic. Ideally, David should be set free. However, my main objective in reaching out to you today is to demand that his hearing on Monday be cancelled and that you will no longer pursue giving David ECT's against his will.

David is a bright man. He has a college education and has been employed as a white collar professional in software engineering. These accomplishments alone indicate that David is more than capable of deciding what he needs to ease his emotional distress and he says it is not ECT.

David is rightfully concerned about the effects ECT will have on his brain. According to the UK National Association of Mental Health (mind.org/UK) research is unclear on how ECT affects the brain – including how it affects your mental health. Professionals cannot even come to an agreement as to whether ECT is even beneficial — a fact I find to be alarming.

ECT often ends in memory loss. As if memory loss wasn't enough ECT may result in a person's inability to remember new information. Not being able to learn new information would impede a person's ability to pursue future employment, a career or to pursue further education. Does any human being have the right to do this to another? Do we have the right to play God with another person's brain? Do we have the right to incapacitate a person to the point that they can no longer pursue a career? Being able to remember new information is exactly what is required to find gainful employment and to live a fulfilling life from day to day.

ECT causes electroporation leading to cell membrane damage leading to cell death. Due to the high voltages involved in ECT there is only limited cell repair. Even contact with minor voltage pulses can lead to deep tissue injuries. Do we have the right to injure someone's brain? Do we have the right to determine the trajectory of his future by damaging his brain? Where is David's right to self determination as a US citizen under the US Constitution?

Being psychiatrically incarcerated is challenging enough but to force David to undergo ECT's is a serious escalation of his situation. Psychiatric survivors who have been subjected to forced ECT describe it as a terrifying form of torture. They often describe the lack of agency and lack of power itself to be overwhelming. Sadly, I know this to be true from personal experience.

I was subjected to forced ECT's. The trauma of forced ECT's haunts me to this day and will follow me to my death. Prior to the ECT's my husband, children and I were temporarily living in Morocco. It was an opportunity of a lifetime. After experiencing a poisonous spider bite that took a year and a half to recover I broke down from the stress of it all and my doctor subjected me to forced ECT. I still have nightmares and probably always will but worse of all I lost all memories of living in Morocco. I lost all memories of my children at 4 and 6 enjoying Morocco. That was 24 years ago and I still grieve. And the older I get the more I grieve the loss of that year in Morocco with my precious family more and more. I find the closer one gets to the end of their lives, memories become far more valuable than objects and the size of one's bank account. It's beautiful memories of the past that can give us the strength to face the adversities of getting old. Memories are what gives our lives meaning. It is morally and ethically wrong to alter someone's brain through ECT's so that they forget some of the happiest moments of their lives — the very things that give life meaning. It's an affront against God and Nature.

My mother lost her father at the age of 16. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage during an ECT that was being administered to him against his will — leaving my grandmother with a newborn and seven other children to raise with no life insurance. The trauma of his murder by ECT continues to be passed down from one generation to the next. I never knew my grandfather but I feel the trauma of his death to this day and so do my adult children. I pray that my grandson will be spared the inner generational trauma of his great great grandfather's death by ECT.

Pope Francis demands all healthcare workers treat patients as individuals, not numbers or cases. He states that any medical practice or intervention be painstakingly evaluated to see if it actually respects life and human dignity. Tinkering with people's brains is neither dignifying nor respectful of life. David Russell is a child of God after all. I see zero respect for David's dignity and life by violently forcing him to receive ECT's that he has a right as a child of God to oppose.

The United Nations Commission on Mental Health and Human Rights condemns the use of forced institutionalization and treatment and noted that it may amount to torture. The commission warns of people losing their legal capacity causing them to fall below legal purview through third party (Conservatorship) giving consent to subject their client to forced ECT and institutionalization. According to the UN, a third party giving consent for his or her client to endure unwanted ECT may very well constitute torture. As a Roman Catholic I see nothing pro life nor dignifying in forcing a man to endure ECT's that will damage his brain and possibly alter the course of his entire life. I see nothing Christian or moral about that. As a Catholic I agree with Pope Francis' call for life affirming care and for respecting the dignity of individuals. I ask you, are you truly respecting the dignity of David's life, as Pope Francis calls us to do by forcing him to undergo ECT.

David may be under a conservatorship but we will not let him be forgotten nor leave him isolated and alone. We, at MindFreedom, care about David Russell.

As an individual who has been greatly harmed by ECT and as a Catholic I expect anyone employed by Catholic Charities to adhere to the values of Pope Francis. Forcing David Russell to undergo ECT's he doesn't want is not honoring David as a human being. It is not honoring the UN's conclusion that to give someone ECT against their will constitutes torture and that is not honoring the teachings of Pope Francis. Therefore I am demanding you withdraw the petition of yours for the forced ECT of David Russell.

Sincerely,
Andrea Barnes

Reply

Pat

May 1, 2024 at 6:41 pm

Do Not Force Shock Treatments on David Russell! Shock treatments and forced medication are Torture for Human Beings! It was not clear how or why he was admitted to Mayo, but I can only assume that it was Also forced on him!
I was conned into getting shock treatments – more than 25 of them – under threat that they (Region's Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota) would and could hold me until I succumbed to this abuse. I was a prisoner, actually behind locked doors. I did not commit any crime and was forcibly put into that hospital. I was doing no harm to myself or anyone else!
Stop This Abuse!

Reply

Andy Triboletti

May 1, 2024 at 8:51 am

I wrote an email yesterday and haven't heard back.

Addressed To: Brittany Dannehy, Mike Hanratty, and Senator Carla Nelson of Minnesota

Hello, I am a previous donor to Catholic Charities and today, I read about forced electroshock being done at the Minnesota Mayo Clinic after Catholic Charities filed a petition for it to be done. The person, David Rusell does not want to receive Electroshock or to be on a guardianship or to be in a mental hospital at all. He is a software engineer, like me. What did he do wrong? How long has he been locked up? What are the asserted grounds of dangerousness? Please withdraw the ECT petition or let me know who filed it. What would Jesus do? Thank you.
more info: https://mindfreedom.org/front-page/shield-alert-david-russell/

Reply

Jim Gottstein

April 30, 2024 at 5:01 pm

From: Jim Gottstein
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 2:00 PM
To: MHanratty@ccsomn.org
Cc: office@mindfreedom.org
Subject: Re: David Russell

Dear Mr. Hanratty,

It was not Mr. Russell who identified Catholic Charities as the Petitioner, but I. Mr. Russell informed me that he had not been provided a copy of the Electroshock Petition and wasn't sure who had filed it. That surprises me because it should be legally required, but I don't know if perhaps under Minnesota law serving Catholic Charities suffices because it is David's guardian. Mr. Russell reports his putative attorney does not provide him with information, which is consistent with my experience in other situations.

I saw that under Minnesota Statute 524.5-313(c)(iv)(i),

no guardian may give consent for . . . electroshock . . . unless the procedure is first approved by order of the court

and under 524.5-313(c)(iv)(ii),

a guardian who believes [Electroshock] to be necessary for the proper care of the person subject to guardianship, shall petition the court for an order,

so I concluded, apparently incorrectly, that Catholic Charities filed the Electroshock Petition. The MindFreedom Shield Alert for Mr. Russell states we did not know for sure if Catholic Charities filed the Electroshock and if you didn't you could deny it and inform us who did ("If Catholic Charities did not file the Forced Electroshock Petition they can deny it and if so, should be asked who did"). Your citation of the Alert omits this, which seems deliberate.

Mr. Russell may have already signed an Authorization for Release of Information directing that information be provided to me and the Law Project for Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights).

Please provide me with a copy of the Petition, or at least advise us who filed it.

The larger picture is as guardian, if you did not file the Electroshock Petition, you should vehemently oppose it and request the petitioner withdraw or dismiss the Electroshock Petition.

You should know that the United Nations has concluded Electroshock can constitute torture in violation of International Law. See, UN Human Rights Council. (19 June 2020). "Mental Health and Human Rights: Resolution 43/13 Adopted 19 June 2020." A/HRC/RES/43/13. Geneva: United Nations; UN Human Rights Council. (20 Mar 2020). Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Report of the Special Rapporteur. A/HRC/43/49. Geneva: United Nations; Méndez, Juan E. (4 Mar 2013). "Statement By Mr. Juan E Méndez, Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations." Geneva: United Nations. See also the related Report of the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Juan E. Méndez (2013), A/HRC/22/53. Geneva: United Nations.

I have spoken with David a number of times and he is terrified of being electroshocked. His terror is warranted. Please prevent your ward from being subjected to this barbaric intervention.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

James B. (Jim) Gottstein, Esq.
President/CEO

Law Project for Psychiatric Rights
406 G Street, Suite 206
Anchorage, Alaska 99501 USA
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From: “Michael Hanratty”
Sent: 4/30/24 3:03 PM
To: “office@mindfreedom.org”
Subject: David Russell

An individual under our guardianship has submitted false information on your shield action page. It is cited to “call and e-mail Ms. Dannehy and Mr. Hanratty demanding that they withdraw the petition for electroshocking David against his will.” Catholic Charities did not petition and would not petition for electroconvulsive therapy. We would ask that the post for the shield alert be removed immediately. Thank you.

Mike Hanratty, NCG
Adult Advocacy Program Director
Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota
PO Box 379, Winona MN 55987
Phone: (507) 454-2270, Ext 233
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mhanratty@ccsomn.org

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Reply

Jim Gottstein

May 1, 2024 at 1:37 am

From: Jim Gottstein
[mailto:jim.gottstein@psychrights.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 10:36 PM
To: MHanratty@ccsomn.org
Cc: office@mindfreedom.org;
jim.gottstein@psychrights.org
Subject: RE: David Russell

Dear Mr. Hanratty,

In re-reading your e-mail to MindFreedom I see you stated Catholic Charities “would not” petition for electroshock and I would like to explore that with you. I am five hours behind you, but hope to speak with you tomorrow about that.

Take care,
Jim

Jim Gottstein

May 1, 2024 at 10:31 am

I called and left a message for Mr. Hanratty. No response so far.

Esther Nairn

April 30, 2024 at 2:38 pm

I am a female software engineer and it is very often this population is misjudged because it is very often that we suffer from autism spectrum and ADHD. We are often exploited for our earning potential. Please help this gentleman. I was given forced treatment for bipolar I don’t have. Please stop them from doing this. They need legal consequences for harassing this population.

Reply

Sarah Smith

April 30, 2024 at 5:04 pm

Dear Esther, thank you for your support of David’s human rights. You are right to draw people’s attention to the disproportionate number of neurodivergent folk who are often subjected to harmful, psychiatric interventions for behavior which others find unconventional or for beliefs which are unshared. MindFreedom International is in solidarity with any person who self identifies

with or is perceived by others to have a disability (physical, intellectual, developmental, psychiatric, or psycho social) and who is subjected to an unwanted guardianship or other substitute decision making arrangement which denies the individual any say so in their own medical treatment. As Ron Bassman PhD (former MindFreedom Executive Director and psychiatric survivor) used to say "Forced treatment is an oxymoron!"

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